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surrounding the walls, and repelling the sallies of the besieged. These small assaults were more like gay tournaments than serious battles, and even the death of those Spaniards who fell in fight only acted as an incentive; for, by the influence of the Church, they were lauded as glorious martyrs to the true Faith. When Isabella joined the camp, she caused a high wooden building to be erected, from the summit of which waved the banner of the Cross. The interior was fitted up as a convent and church, and Benedictine nuns took possession of it, daily performing pious rites. The Queen, accompanied by her suite and knights, came hither every morning to hear mass, which was read by her confessor, and sung by the nuns assembled in the choir. Thus it happened, that Isabella one day was struck by a voice, which overpowered all others by its rare bell-like tone. Its utterance was like the victorious warblings of the nightingale, which, far excelling its melodious companions, remains empress of the woods. And yet the pronunciation of the words was so strange, and the manner of chanting so peculiar and unusual, that a listener was led to suppose that the singer was unpractised in church-style, and perhaps sang the service for the first time. With surprise, Isabella looked around, and remarked that her attendants also seemed seized with astonishment; but, when her eye fell upon the brave knight Aguillar, who was one of her suite, she guessed that some rare adventure must have happened. He knelt in a confessional, his gaze fixed upon the grating of the choir, his dark eyes flowing with rapture and love. When mass was finished, Isabella visited the cell of Donna Maria, the abbess, and enquired concerning the strange singer.

(To be continued.)

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

BARNARD CASTLE.—The Sacred Harmonic and Choral Society gave their sixth annual concert on Friday, Feb. 6, consisting of selections from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, for the first part; and secular music for the second part. Principal vocalists: Misses H. Walker, Smith, and Nasbitt; Mr. Whitehead, Signor Delavanti, and Mr. Pearson. Leader of the band, Mr. Singworth, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; organist, Mr. Mortimer; conductor, Mr. Raper. The chorus numbered above 70 voices.

BARNBURY HALL.—The North London Choral Union gave their first concert here on the 3rd ult. Between the parts, the Society presented to Mr. Drage, their conductor, a handsome silver-mounted baton, as a small token of his perseverance in their behalf. The principal soloists were Misses Wiltshire, Western, and Page; Messrs. Page and Carlton.

BATTERSEA.—Mr. John Wilson has been appointed musical director of the Battersea Vocal Association. The rehearsals of sacred and secular music take place every Wednesday evening, in the Lammas Hall.

BINGHAM.—On Tuesday, Feb. 3, a special service was held in the Church, and a collection was made to clear off the debt on the organ. Mr. Irons, organist of Southwell, presided on the occasion. After service, a vocal concert

was given by the choir, and several members of the Southwell choir. Mr. Irons performed two Fantasias on the pianoforte. Conductor, Mr. Hemstock; principal soprano, Miss Hemstock.

BISHOPSTEIGNTON.—On the 13th ult. the members and friends of the Bishopsteignton Choral Society presented their conductor, Mr. Nosworthy, with a handsome testimonial, consisting of a handsome goblet, as a recognition of the efficient services he has rendered them during the time he has filled that office.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, an organ of good quality, built by Mr. Vowles, was opened in Emanuel Church. Mr. Denning has been appointed organist, and at the opening service his brother, Dr. Albert Denning, presided at the instrument.

CAMBRIDGE.—On February 6th, the Rev. H. Allon, of Islington, delivered a lecture on "Church Song." The illustrations were given by a chorus of fifty voices. On the 11th, Mr. Ingram's benefit concert was given in the Town Hall. The programme included *Alexander's Feast*, Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerts, Op. 75, Mozart's Quartett in G minor, and Beethoven's Violin Sonata in G. The members of the University Musical Society rendered very efficient aid. The solos were sung by Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Machin, and an undergraduate of Sidney College.

CANNON-STREET.—A Singing Class has been formed at the Wesleyan Free Church in Cannon-street Road East.

CARDIFF.—The *Messiah* was performed on the 28th ult., in the Music Hall. The principal singers were Miss Bennett, Miss Harrison, Mr. Righton, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Merrick, and Mr. Greenwood. Mr. Wilkes conducted.

CARMARTHEN.—On Wednesday, Jan. 7, the *Messiah* was given in the Assembly-rooms, under the patronage of the Bishop of St. David's. The band and choir numbered 60 performers, under the direction of Mr. Whitaker, the organist of St. Peter's. The soprano and alto solos were sustained by lady amateurs, whilst Messrs. Turner and Hinchcliffe, from Yorkshire, took the tenor and bass. The proceeds will be applied to repairing the organ in St. Peter's. On Friday, Jan. 30, a musical entertainment was given at the British School-room, Whitemill. Several amateurs from Carmarthen assisted. Mr. Appleby, of St. David's, presided at the harmonium. A concert was given on Thursday, the 19th ult., at the Town Hall, by the members of the Aberystwith Harmonic Society, of whom Mr. J. Powell is the president. The music was the *Messiah*, and the principal singers were Miss Jones and Miss Davies, Messrs. Jones, Phillips, Richards, and James. Mr. Brooke accompanied. The choral performance was decidedly good.

CHOBLTON.—Mr. R. Andrews' concert for the sewing classes in the district took place on the 21st of February, in the Temperance Hall. The performance commenced with the "Dead March" on the harmonium, by Mr. G. S. Andrews, who also played a fantasia on the pianoforte. The programme comprised solos, duets, &c.

CONGLETON.—A miscellaneous Concert was given by Mr. Eyre, in St. Peter's School, on Monday evening, Feb. 9th. The proceeds of the concert, amounting to nearly £20, were given to the funds of the Schools.

CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE.—A concert of miscellaneous music was given here by Mr. E. Harker, organist of the Ancient Abbey, and his choir, assisted by Mr. Thacker, organist to the Duke of Bedford, and part of his choir. Mr. E. Thacker, harmonium, Mr. Thacker, pianoforte.

DUBLIN.—A class for the practice of sacred music, in connection with the Church of England and Ireland Young Men's Society, met for the first time in St. George's Church Lecture-room, on Wednesday, the 11th ult., and are to meet each succeeding Wednesday. Mr. James Lee, of Armagh Cathedral, is the conductor. The Philharmonic Society gave a concert on the 13th ult. The

programme was carefully selected, and there were several well-known performers, including Madame Touellier, Messrs. Haigh, Smith, Cooper, Piatti (violoncello) and Herr Pauer (pianoforte). Mr. Levey led the band, and Mr. Russell was the conductor.

EDINBURGH.—A Concert of sacred music was given in the College-street Presbyterian Church on Monday, the 2nd ult., under the direction of the Precentor, Mr. James Liddle, late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Precentor, Mr. Crombie. The music in the first part was selected from the *Messiah*, and the several choruses were sung with precision by a well-trained choir of about 40 voices. Amongst the solo performers, Mr. and Mrs. Liddle were conspicuous. The second part consisted of miscellaneous pieces. The audience numbered about 1800, and upwards of £30. was realized for the object in contemplation.

FINSBURY CIRCUS.—On January 28th a Soirée was held at the Finsbury Chapel, when a selection of sacred music was performed, under the direction of Mr. Phillips, who was supported professionally by Miss Jenkinson as soprano soloist, and Mr. G. Jenkinson as accompanist.

FROCESTER (Gloucestershire).—A Concert was given in the School-room on Friday evening, the 13th ult., by the Choral Society of this place. The society has only been formed about two months, and is under the direction of Mr. Matthews. The programme contained a good selection of glees, part-songs, duets, songs, &c. Two amateur ladies presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. J. A. Matthews conducted.

GLOUCESTER.—The Choral Society gave their second Concert for the season on Tuesday evening, Jan. 27th, at the Shire Hall. The first part opened with a selection from Bach, and Haydn's *Creation*. Mr. Taylor presided at the organ; Miss Clarke, Mr. Hargrave, and Mr. Staning sustained the solos. The second part consisted of a selection of secular music. Mr. Matthews accompanied on the pianoforte, and Mr. Wheeler conducted.

GODALMING.—A Concert was given on Jan. 27th, by the Godalming Choral Society, assisted by Miss Lyon and Miss Evelyn. Conductor, Mr. Evans; pianoforte, Mr. Law. The choruses were creditably performed by the members.

GREENWICH.—The members of the Musical Association gave a concert by invitation, on Thursday evening, February 5th, on the occasion of presenting their conductor, Mr. J. M. Clarke, with a gold watch, in token of their appreciation of his services in connection with the Association. Much enthusiasm was manifested by both the choristers and audience, and the proceedings were of a very interesting character. The concert room was well filled.

HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS.—Miss Alice Mangold's Soirée Musicale took place at these rooms on the 14th of February. The music selected by this young pianist for performance was Hummel's Trio in E major for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello; solos, by Bach, Henselt, Howard Glover, and Lubeck; and Clementi's Sonata in B flat, for two pianofortes, in which she was joined by Herr Pauer. Miss Mangold is gifted with great talent, she has the most finished execution, which is combined with so much purity of tone and elegance of expression, that she will doubtless rise to the highest position in the profession. She was also assisted by Messrs. Ries, Deichmann, Webb, and Piatti, Miss Soldene, and Madlle. Georgi. The conductor was Signor Randegger.

HARROW.—Mr. Bradbury Turner gave a concert on the 12th of February, at the Harrow School. The performers on the occasion were Miss Banks, Miss Palmer, Messrs. Bolton, Nappi, Cheshire, Radcliffe, Deichman, Pettit, and Bradbury Turner. Conductor, Mr. Baumer.

HULL.—On Friday evening, Jan. 30, an amateur vocal Concert was given in the Music Hall (in aid of the fund for the relief of the distressed poor), by the principal amateurs of the town. The chorus numbered about one

hundred. The programme was miscellaneous. The solo vocalists were Miss Foreman, Miss Harrison, and Messrs. Lewenden, C. Newton, Leggott, and H. Newton. Mr. Skelton conducted.

KIRKBURTON.—The fourth annual Concert took place in the Grammar School-room on Friday evening, Jan. 80. The principal vocalists were Misses Walker and Newbound, and Messrs. Inkersall and Jackman, of Ely Cathedral, who were assisted in the glees, &c., by Miss Radcliffe, and Messrs. Etchells, Shaw, and Matthews. Mr. Burton, of Leeds, conducted the music. The want of a large and properly-constructed music-room is much felt in this rapidly-improving village.

LEAMINGTON.—The Philharmonic Society of this town gave an evening concert on the 12th ult., in aid of the funds of the Warneford Hospital. The orchestra consisted of upwards of 70 vocal and instrumental performers, conducted by Mr. R. Ward. Herr Ries of the St. James's Hall concerts, officiated as leader, and Mr. C. Flavell presided at the pianoforte. The services of Mrs. A. Newton, of Exeter Hall, Mr. G. T. Carter, of Westminster Abbey, and Mr. H. Percy, of the Orpheus Glee Union, were engaged as principal vocalists. The programme consisted of Romberg's *Lay of the Bell*, and a miscellaneous selection.

LEICESTER.—On the 9th of February the *Messiah* was performed by the Philharmonic, Sacred Harmonic, and Amateur Instrumental Societies of Leicester, in aid of the fund for relieving the distress at Hinchley, consequent on the scarcity of cotton. Mr. Nicholson conducted. Among the solo vocalists were Miss Taylor, Miss Deacon, Messrs. Samsome, Atkins, and T. Briggs, of Worcester Cathedral.—On the 17th of February the Leicester Choral Union gave a second concert in the Temperance Hall. The performance was conducted by Mr. Oldershaw. The principal vocalists were Miss Nanacott, Messrs. Harrison, Oldershaw, Wood, and Valentine.

LEWISHAM.—An entertainment was given to the Working Classes, in the Lewisham Bridge School-room, on the 18th ult., by the Lee Choral Society, conducted by their leader, Mr. J. Bennett.

LIVERPOOL.—The first subscription concert of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 24th ult., when *Judas Maccabæus* was performed. Madame Rudersdorff, Mr. S. Reeves, and Mr. D. Lambert, singing the solo parts. Mr. Hirst was the organist, and Mr. Herrmann conductor.

LYDNEY.—A Concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the School-room on Monday evening, the 9th ult., by Mr. J. A. Matthews, organist of the parish church. The principal vocalists were Miss Bennett, Messrs. Hargrave and Mugford the choristers of Gloucester Cathedral, and members of the Gloucester Choral Society. Solo violin, Mr. Woodward; harmonium, Master Hooper; Mr. Matthews presided at the pianoforte, and conducted.

MANCHESTER (St. Peter's Church).—On Sunday, Feb. 1, the grand organ by Messrs. Kirtland and Jardine, of Manchester, was re-opened by Mr. Best, organist of St. George's Hall, Liverpool. This fine instrument has 4 manuals, and contains 72 registers, of which 61 are sounding stops. From Mr. Joule's account of the organ, it appears that only 26 organs in the world exceed it in number of sounding stops; whilst, as a church organ, it ranks, in England, third, being exceeded only by the instruments in York Minster and Doncaster Parish Church. The morning service included a new and very effective setting of the Benedicite by Mr. Best; Mr. Best's Responses and Nicene Creed, in G; and his very fine anthem, "Praise the Lord, call upon his name." The service in the evening was Stevenson, in E flat; the anthem being a selection from the *Creation*. In a private performance on the following morning, Mr. Best introduced some of his forthcoming "Six Concert Pieces for the Organ," and they were evidently appreciated by an audience which comprised, in

addition to many strangers from long distances, most of the resident professors and amateurs.

MARSHFIELD CHURCH.—A new organ, built by Mr. Vowles, of Bristol, for the above church, was opened on Sunday, January 25th. Sermons were preached on the occasion by the vicar, the Rev. Mr. Bedford, in the morning, and the Rev. Canon Barrow in the afternoon. The instrument was much admired for its beauty and purity of tone.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. J. W. F. Marshall has been appointed Organist and Precentor of St. Mary's College, Bampton, Oxon.—Mr. H. W. Osborn to St. John the Baptist, Islington.—Mr. Joseph Barnby as Organist and Choir-master at St. Andrew's, Wells-street.—Mr. Henry Morgan to be Organist of the Parish Church of St. Luke's, Chelsea.

OXFORD.—Mr. Naylor, organist of the parish church, Scarborough, took his degree of Bachelor in Music at Oxford, on Wednesday, Feb. 4th. The following notice of the occasion referred to is taken from the *Oxford Chronicle*.—"An exercise for the degree of Bachelor in Music, composed by Mr. John Naylor, of Magdalen Hall, was performed in the Music Hall, Oxford, on Feb. 4, before the Vice-Chancellor and a numerous audience. The words were selected from Psalm 145. The exercise opens with a chorus, which is followed by a bass solo, a chorus, a solo (soprano) and chorus, a recit. (accompanied) and canon, then follows another treble solo, a quartett, and two other choruses. The subjects of the two fugues were exceedingly melodious, and the solos for treble and bass were highly effective. On the whole, justice was done by the choir and band to this highly praiseworthy composition."—MRS. REINAGLE'S Beethoven Recital, in aid of the Lancashire Relief Fund, took place at the Music-room, on the 13th ult., when the sum of £12 was handed over to the fund.

PLAISTOW.—On Jan. 22nd an amateur Concert was given by the Plaistow Musical Association in aid of the Lancashire Relief Fund, in the Drill Room of the Rifle Corps. Mr. Carder presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. West conducted. This is the first public concert which the Association has given. The room was well filled, and the sum of £30 was realized.

PORTMADOC.—A Concert of sacred music took place in the National School-room on Friday, the 6th ult., in aid of the Lancashire Fund. The principal singers were Messdames Matthew and Casson, Miss Satterthwaite, Messrs. Owen, Casson, Ellis, &c. The receipts amounted to £25.

ROTHERHAM.—On the 17th of February, Dr. Sewell, organist of the Parish Church, delivered a lecture in the Mechanics' Hall, for the Young Men's Christian Association, on Ecclesiastical Music. The illustrations were performed by the Rotherham Church Choir.

SALTAIRE.—A Concert was given on Thursday, the 5th ult., in the Dining Hall, by the members of the Saltaire Glee and Madrigal Society, under the direction of Mr. Holroyd, and the members of the Saltaire Brass Band, led by Mr. Turner. The principal performers were Mrs. Sunderland, Messrs. Sutcliffe, Smith (cornet), and Tomlinson (pianist). The profits of the concert were to be handed over to the Lancashire Distress Fund.

SHADWELL.—An entertainment was given at the Sailors Institute on Jan. 27th, in aid of the Lancashire Relief Fund. The singing was conducted by Mr. Cooter; Mr. Longbottom presided at the piano; Miss Stirling accompanied part of the music.

SHEFFIELD.—A performance of sacred music was given in the Music Hall, on Wednesday evening, Feb. 18th, in aid of the new Wesleyan Schools at Heeley. The programme consisted of the *Dettingen Te Deum*, and selections from the *Messiah*. Principals, Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Barton, Miss Knowles, Miss Harrison, Messrs. Lee, Stacey, Atherton, Shirley, Roebuck, Moorhouse, and Schofield,

with an efficient band and chorus. Leader, Mr. J. W. Allwood; organist, Dr. Sewell; conductor, Mr. C. Harvey.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN MUSICIANS.—The 41st annual meeting of this society was held at the Whittington Club on Jan. 26th. The report shewed that the receipts for the year had been £422 6s. 4d., and the expenditure £319 1s. 2d., leaving a balance of £103 5s. 2d. The total capital of the society now amounts to £2000. It has been in existence since 1822, and has now assumed a prominent position among the benevolent institutions of the metropolis. The benefits are available to all members, whether English or foreign, following the musical profession, and resident in this country.

SOUTHWARK.—A selection of sacred and secular music was performed on the 10th of February, in St. Peter's Schools, by the Southwark Choral Society, conducted by Mr. J. Courtney. The principal singers were Miss Moro, Miss West, Messrs. Cathie, Stewart, Barr, Courtney, Cathie, Stewart, and Wiles.

STANNINGLEY.—A Concert was held in the Town School-room on the 17th ult. The principal vocalists were Misses Umpleby, Hollingworth, and Strickland; Messrs. Roberts, Grice (from York Cathedral), Pickersgill, Oakes, and Rothery. Mr. Roberts presided at the pianoforte. The concert was very successful.

STANTONBURY.—A Concert was given in the Church School-room, on Jan. 31st, by the Stantonbury Choral Society, under the direction of Mr. Horley, Choir-master to Stantonbury Church. The programme contained a miscellaneous selection of secular music. The principal vocalists were Messrs. Hallem, Wootton, Hay, and Atterbury.

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK.—A sacred Concert took place in the Parochial School-room on the 8th ult., on behalf of the five Ragged Schools of the parish, the Rev. Hugh Allen presiding. The music consisted of selections from the *Creation*, *Messiah*, and *Judas Maccabæus*. The solos were sung by Miss Annie Cox, Miss E. Boden, and Miss Watson; Messrs. Blake, Carter, and Thomas. Miss Dobhyns was the pianist, and Mr. Wingham conducted. The music was well sustained throughout, and it is to be hoped that the funds of these excellent institutions will have been benefited by the performance.

ST. IVES (Hants).—Popular Concerts.—The third of this series of concerts, under the direction of Mr. Holloway, passed off on Friday, February 6, with much success.

ST. MARK'S (Flint).—The Choral Society, conducted by Mr. H. White, gave a concert here on the 4th ult. The principal vocalists were Mrs. White, Miss Roberts, Rev. E. Hardy, Messrs. Dentith, Stannard, Archibald, Roberts, and Jones. Mr. White presided at the harmonium and pianoforte.

SWANSEA.—The *Messiah* was performed in Bethesda Chapel on the 16th ult., by the Swansea Valley Choral Society with an orchestral accompaniment. The solo singers were Miss Harrison, Miss Edmonds, Messrs. Merrick, Jones, Hewson, and Rosser. Director and choir-master, Mr. Griffiths; harmonium, Mr. Fricker; solo trumpet, Mr. Saunders.

WESTMINSTER.—The St. John's Choral Society gave their second private concert in the theatre of the Free Public Library, on Tuesday, the 24th ult. The music was secular—chiefly comprised of glees and part-songs. The solo singers were Miss de Gaggin, and Messrs. Higgs, Williams, Bayley, Hoar, and Jeffery. Conductor, Mr. Higgs; accompanist, Mr. Williams. The directors and committee of this society include many names of the highest position, and every exertion is used to improve the musical capabilities of the members, and with good effect.

WINDSOR.—The Royal Glee and Madrigal Union gave their third concert for the present season, on Friday evening, the 13th ult., in the Town-hall, when the fol-

lowing *artistes* appeared: viz., Miss Armytage, and Messrs. Knowles, Marriott, Adams, Whiffin, Tolley, Bransome, Bridgwater, Mitchell, and Lambert, of the Royal Chapel of St. George's, assisted by the choristers. Dr. Elvey, conductor and pianist.

WOOLWICH.—A performance of sacred music was given by the Sacred Harmonic Society, in Parson's Hill Chapel, Woolwich, on Thursday, February 12. Mr. J. M. Clarke conducted, Mr. Bowman led the band, and Mr. Neville presided at the harmonium.

OBITUARY.—There will not be a few among the musical world who will have felt more than common sympathy in hearing of Mr. Hullah's bereavement. His wife was not very generally known, but few can have seen her even slightly without taking with them the impression of a strong and tranquil nature, fitted to be the support as much as the comfort of those with whom she passed her life. Educated as a teacher of music (she was a pupil of Moscheles), she was singularly free from those defects to which a musical education is likely to give rise. After her marriage, her musical powers were turned to account for the sake of very unremunerative pupils; and among the many claims of a young family, she attended, with a punctuality not always characteristic of charity lessons, at a distant parish-school to teach the children singing. Her *status* as an accomplished musician in early days is implied in the fact of her being requested, during Mendelssohn's visit to England, to play a duet of his own with him at sight; but of late years her friends could only form their estimate of her powers by the test, so inadequate to an uncultivated ear, of accompaniment to vocal music. It was a rare good fortune which gave Mr. Hullah a companion so suitable in taste, and so rich in those homely virtues and powers which few characters are large enough to combine with artistic taste. Many women have been as devoted wives and mothers—some, though not so many, as capable of entering into a man's interest and business: but in very few can the two sides of character have been so equally balanced, that the fine taste never encroached on the thoughtful activity which arranged all the minutiae of domestic life, nor did the cares of this lastadden the susceptibility for the enjoyment of art. Though in many ways eminently formed for society, she had the calm, natural dignity of a spirit perfectly independent of anything so external. She never entered into it; her atmosphere was the home of which she was the prop and centre, and those only who saw her there knew anything of what she was. Yet these absorbing affections, which, in a much slighter degree, are often the excuse for coldness towards every one beyond the home circle, while they fully exercised, never engrossed, her heart. She had interest for the claims of new friends and of old: the foundations of her friendships were laid beneath the transitory and accidental circumstances of life, and bore all shocks thus unimpaired. In youth she must have been possessed of great personal beauty, but the best part of that beauty was the sweet and serene expression over which Time has no power—the expression of a spirit at peace with the world because utterly independent of it—because her deepest hopes and aspirations belonged to a different region.—*The Reader*, Feb. 21.

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